Grants for Widening National Highways in U.P.

*178. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Wil! the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance granted by Government to Uttar Pradesh for widening National Highways during the last three years; and

(b) the details of such funds utilized so far in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) the Central Government has sanctioned 27 works for widening the existing National Highways to 2/4 lanes at an estimated cost of Rs. 3348.64 crores in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) Eight works have been completed and the remaining 19 works are at various stages of progress. An expenditure of Rs. 432.78 crores has been incurred.

Decline in Sugar Production

†*179. SHRI PK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of sugar has decreased substantially in the country during April this year as compared to the same month of previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the existing stock of sugar in the country as compared to the previous year; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of sugar during April, 2002 was 14.67 lakh MTs as against 19.13 lakh MTs during the same months last year. However, the production during the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

current crushing season as on 7.6.2002 was 177.68 lakh MTs as against 180.51 lakh MTs as on 7.6.2001. The slight fall in the production of sugar this season is mainty due to unfavourable monsoon conditions and diversification of sugarcane for fooder purposes in Maharashtra.

(c) As on 7.6.2002, the stock of sugar with the sugar mills was 162.69 lakh MYs as compared to 164.41 lakh MYs on 7.6.2001.

(d) In order to boost the production of sugar, the sugar industry has been de-licensed with effect from September, 1998, allowing the entrepreneurs the freedom to set up new sugar factories or undertake expansion of the existing sugar factories keeping in view the techno-economic viability of their projects. Besides, loans from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rates of interest for cane development, modernization/expansion and technological up-gradation are being given.

Economic Reforms in India

*†180. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Development and Reform Facility Fund with 2,500 crore of rupees was set up by Government to accelerate the pace of economic reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the heads for which provision was made to provide amount from the said fund together with the amount earmarked for each of those heads; and

(c) the State in which the amount has so far been disbursed from this Fund by the end of June, 2002 together with the amount thereof in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Development and Reform Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) is a new initiative introducted in the Budget 2002-03 for which an amount of Rs. 2500 crore has been provided in Demand No. 30, "Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments" of the Ministry of Finance. No release have been made so far.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.